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Civil War Officers Union

Thomas Mather

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GEN. THOMAS S. MATHER.

Demise of a Former Adjutant-General of Illinois - Other Deaths, MATHER.

A well-known figure in the history of Illinois and of Springfield during the war passed away yesterday. Gen. Thomas S. Mather died at 6:30 o'clock in the morning of heart failure. His death was quite a surprise to his host of friends in the city. He was taken ill about two weeks ago, and was removed from his room at the Revere, where he has been making his home for several years, to the residence of John C. Lanphier. He improved and was thought to be out of danger and returned a week ago to the Revere and resumed his office work. Last Tuesday he was again taken ill. Wednesday evening his physician, Dr. Kerr, was summoned and found him threatened with heart failure. About 11 o'clock that night, however, he rallied. His particular friend and distant relative, Mr. John C. Lamb, was at his bedside, and about 4 o'clock yesterday morning the doctor was again summoned, as the sufferer had grown worse. He was conscious until about 6 o'clock, when his heart seemed to have been completely used up. He made a strenuous effort to tell something he seemed to have on his mind, but was unable to do so. He seemed to have never entirely recovered from an attack of la grippe which he had last February, and which left him with a throat trouble.

Gen. Mather came to Springfield in 1850. His ability and efficiency were soon shown to great advantage. For a number of years he has operated a pension bureau, with his office over the Illinois National bank. His success as

a pension agent has been remarkable. Owing to his complete knowledge of the pension laws he succeeded in obtaining many pensions when others had failed. He died at about the age of 60.

He was a brave soldier, serving through the whole of the civil war, and for some time was adjutant general of Illinois, and it was he that commissioned Gen. Grant. He was afterward connected with the war department at Washington, D. C. About two years ago he went east and spent a year with relatives in Connecticut. He has no immediate relatives in this city. The remains will be embalmed this morning, after which they will be taken to the residence of ex-Gov. John M. Palmer. Gen. Mather was a member of Springfield lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., of Elwood commandery No. 6, Knights Templar, and of Mendell post No. 450, G. A. R. He was a genial and generous gentleman, courtly in disposition, and a brave soldier. He had never been married. In his death, Springfield has lost a noble and trusted citizen, whose demise will be mourned by all who knew him.

The funeral services of the Masons will be held at the residence of Gen. Palmer, No. 206 East Adams street, and will be attended by the Knights Templars and his comrades of the Grand Army also. The remains will be taken to the Wabash station and thence sent to his former home in Simsbury, Conn., where he has a brother, sister, and other relatives, in accordance with a telegram received by Mr. Lamb, who at once notified them of Gen. Mather's death. The remains will be accompanied by Col. E. R. Roberts, as a representative of the Knights Templars and the Grand Army.

W. E. F.

